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Security Council

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Letter dated 13 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council on Thursday, 15 September 2011, in order to prevent the realization of Pristina's threat to unilaterally impose, on 16 September, customs and border police control over the administrative boundary crossings (known as Gates 1 and 31) between North Kosovo and Serbia proper, with facilitation by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). The Council should take appropriate measures to eliminate the threat to regional peace and security that Pristina's announced actions represent.

I also have the honour to request that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, a representative of the Serbian Government be allowed to participate in the meeting and to make a statement.

Attached herewith please find a copy of the letter of Mr. Vuk Jeremic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, and the note of the Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations by which this letter was transmitted today, 13 September 2011, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for distribution to the members of the Security Council and its publication as a document of the Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Feodor **Starcevic**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, a copy of the letter of Mr. Vuk Jeremic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, addressed to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (see enclosure).

The assistance of the Secretary-General in having the letter circulated to the Security Council and published as its document would be greatly appreciated.

Enclosure

In the wake of the 30 August 2011 Security Council session on the situation in Serbia's southern province of Kosovo and Metohija, I write to inform you of the imminent threat of unilateral action by the Pristina-based ethnic-Albanian authorities.

Over the past few days, a series of official announcements — including by the "prime minister of Kosovo", Hashim Thaqi — have been made to the effect that on Friday, 16 September 2011, the "government of Kosovo" intends to unilaterally impose customs and border police control over the administrative boundary crossings (known as Gates 1 and 31) between North Kosovo and Serbia proper. We have received information that KFOR and EULEX intend to facilitate the operation and its underlying objectives. This would constitute grave violations of their respective status-neutral mandates under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The Republic of Serbia remains committed to the preservation of peace and stability in the region. However, there is no doubt that Pristina's announcement constitutes a serious threat to their maintenance. It comes less than two months after the 25 July 2011 unprovoked armed incursion into North Kosovo by the territory's ethnic-Albanian authorities. A great deal of effort was required to prevent the resulting tensions from spiralling out of control, as was discussed during the 30 August 2011 Security Council session.

The Serbian Government has sharply condemned the announcement by the province's ethnic-Albanian authorities, designed to unilaterally change the situation on the ground. If they are allowed to carry out their unsanctioned, unilateral action, the continuation of dialogue between Serbia and Pristina will become impossible, as will the implementation of what has already been agreed.

Responsibility for the consequences that would result will rest with the authorities in Pristina and those with the mandate and capacity to stop them. There must be no repetition of the 25 July inaction, when the international community failed to prevent Pristina's unauthorized incursion into North Kosovo.

It is with this in mind that I urge the United Nations to take all necessary measures to prevent a course of action that has not been sanctioned by your Acting Special Representative or the Security Council. Resolution 1244 (1999) must be respected in full. It is imperative that both EULEX and KFOR continue to operate under the overall authority and within the status-neutral framework of the United Nations. In the present circumstances, this requires them to take all appropriate preventative measures against the announced unilateralism.

I look forward to your leadership, together with your Acting Special Representative in Kosovo, and would ask that this letter is immediately circulated to the Security Council and published as its document forthwith, so that it can take appropriate measures to avoid the threat to regional peace and security that Pristina's announced actions represent.

(*Signed*) Vuk **Jeremic**